



“Building our community, one child at a time”

The Downtowner

Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Allentown

November 1, 2022

October 13 Meeting

Our monthly dinner meeting on October 13 was a busy one! Our first order of business was for Division 17/18 Immediate Past Lt. Gov. **Enos Martin** to install new officers and Board of Directors for the 2022-23 Kiwanis administrative year. **Tom Harp** was installed as club President. **Peg Harp** as Secretary, and Enos as Treasurer. Elected Board members **Deb Lamb**, **Terry Kennedy** and **Vic Mazziotti** were also installed. We thank these members for their service to our organization!



Installation of Board Members

Following that ceremony, we inducted our newest member, **Alex Hirschberg**. Alex is a former Circle K member while attending the University of Pittsburgh. He is Senior Sales Executive for Distribution in Northeast Pennsylvania for MolsonCoors and lives in Bethlehem Township with his wife Alexandra and 10-month old daughter. Alex was presented with a Certificate of Membership, a Kiwanis pin, club polo shirt and a copy of our club's history book. Welcome to our Allentown Kiwanis family, Alex!



Alex and President Tom

After dinner, **Peg Harp** introduced our guest speaker, **Tina Wida**, RN from the St. Luke's VNA Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP). Tina began her remarks by thanking our Foundation for over \$5,000 in grants since 2017. The NFP started in the 1970's to provide home nursing visitation services to first time mothers. They provide these services from onset of pregnancy through the child's 2nd year. 80-90% of their participants are single moms. Many do not have a good role model for having and raising a child. Many of the moms are suffering from food insecurity and lack education and skills in order to successfully transition to employment. The benefits of the NFP program are many. Child abuse and neglect has been reduced by 48%. Children in the program have fewer developmental delays and are better prepared for school. NFP is an international program, and is available in 45 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Tina is a proponent for the importance of infant mental health. During the pandemic, she and other NFP nurses completed 50 hours of mental health training. Good parenting skills can lead to the development of children with healthy minds. Tina was proud to be selected to serve on the Pennsylvania Association for Infant Mental Health Board of Directors. There are 12 nurses who currently serve on the St. Luke's VNA NFP team. Each has a caseload of 20-30 clients. They serve Lehigh and Northampton Counties. There is a waiting list of 100 moms. Most of their referrals come from doctors or schools. They estimate that the program is only reaching 11 % of eligible mothers. They will be hiring additional nurses in the near future. Tina showed us one of the books authored by Dr. Boyd that was distributed to their clients during April, "Child Abuse Prevention Month." We are happy to support this very worthwhile cause.



Tina Wida

Down Syndrome Buddy Walk



Deb & Tom

October 8 was a sunny, but cool and crisp autumn day for the 23rd Annual Lehigh Valley Down Syndrome Buddy Walk held on the campus of Cedar Crest College. When **Deb Lamb** and **Tom Harp** arrived at the Volunteer Registration table at 11:30 AM, they had layers of outer wear on. By the time their shift was over at 1:30 PM they enjoyed warming temperatures. By the time the actual Buddy Walk took off at 2:00 PM it was a gorgeous fall day! Hundreds of volunteers and walking teams were assembled on the lawn. There was a kid's arts and crafts area, a moon bounce, food trucks, and Star Wars characters mingling in the crowd. The Lehigh Valley Corvette Club showed off their amazing sports cars. It was a festival for the eyes and soul as the Eastern Pennsylvania Down Syndrome Center raised thousands of dollars to support services and programs for children with Down Syndrome and their families. We would like to recognize volunteers from our "sister" Kiwanis Clubs, including **Cathy Kane** from Allentown Northeast; and **Bob & Diane Smith, Doug & Nadine Hohe, Kathie Morie** and **Renee Wetherhold** from Emmaus. We also had two volunteers from the Salisbury HS Key Club and one from the Southern Lehigh HS Key Club.

2022 Rose Sale



Everything was coming up roses in Tom Harp's garage in the wee hours of October 20. Zieger & Sons Wholesale Florists delivered 230 dozen roses to his garage at 4 AM. After 7 AM, members of the Allentown, Allentown NE and Emmaus Kiwanis Clubs stopped by to pick up their orders. We boxed and delivered roses throughout the day. The roses were freshly cut and gorgeous! This was a very successful fundraiser for our club and the Pa.

District Kiwanis Foundation. Our members bought or sold 60 dozen roses which netted our club \$570 to be split between our Administrative and Youth & Community Services budgets. We would like to recognize top sellers **Enos Martin** (14), **Bob Ashcraft** (10) and **Terry Kennedy** (8), and everyone else who supported this fundraiser.

Holiday Hope Chests!



Our Community Service Project for November is to once again participate in the **Holiday Hope Chest** gift drive, coordinated by the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. During the month, we are asking volunteers from the club to donate one or more shoe boxes filled with small toys, clothing items, toiletries, school supplies and other items for distribution to needy children in our area. On October 26, President Tom sent an email to our membership with details about this initiative. Please consider putting together a few Holiday Hope Chests in November to bring joy and happiness to children this holiday season!

Service Leadership Programs

During October we continued efforts to restore and add new Service Leadership Programs (SLP) under our sponsorship. **Enos Martin** reports that the Builders Club at the Raub Middle School continues to grow. The club is now up to 15-20 students and recently sold nearly 9 dozen roses donated by our club as a fundraiser. They sold each rose for \$2 and made over \$200 for their treasury. Our Foundation paid for Builders Club t-shirts for the members, and they are looking forward to helping decorate the school gym for a dance on November 4. Allen HS Key Club members will join them at the dance to help with registration and other activities. With the money they raise from the rose sale, they plan to put together wreaths to give to residents of the Phoebe Home. They plan to elect officers at their next meeting. There has been no progress in restoring the Builders Club at the South Mountain Middle School. And regrettably the Salisbury Middle School opted not to start a Builders Club there, after a visit by Enos and Tom Harp.

We are struggled to restore K-Kids Clubs with the exception of the Ramos Elementary School, where **Vic Mazziotti** reports that the faculty advisor there has scheduled an organizational meeting and our Foundation has agreed to pay their dues. We are still waiting to hear from the Principal at the Washington Elementary School about renewing the K-Kids Club there.

Our Key Clubs all seem to be active and functioning well. The Salisbury HS Key Club plans to donate Holiday Hope Chests again this year. And we expect that the Allen HS

Key Club will be able to help out again this year at our annual LVCC Christmas party next month.

A Glance Into Our Past

100 Years Ago – November 1922

Sixty years before Billy Joel released his song “Allentown”, Professors Harold K. Marks and Stephen G. Simpson, Muhlenberg College, wrote the original song about Allentown. At the November 29th club meeting at the Hotel Allen, Professor Marks and Raymond V. Thomas, Muhlenberg Class of 1923, performed the song for the first time at a public function. If only we had the music, we could sing it 100 years later at our next meeting!

75 Years Ago – November 1947

The Club entertained the Allentown High School football squad, cheerleaders, majorettes, coaches and the entire high school band totaling approximately 250 people at its November 20th meeting. Charles “Charlie” Berry addressed the crowd at the Hotel Allen. Charlie Berry starred as an end on the Lafayette College football team from 1922-24 and was named to the 1924 All-American team. He played football for the Pottsville Maroons in 1925 and kicked a 30-yard field goal to defeat the Notre Dame Fighting Irish 9-7 in an exhibition game which gave credibility to professional football. He also played professional baseball for the Philadelphia Athletics, Boston Red Sox, and Chicago White Sox. After his playing career, Berry umpired in the American League from 1942 through 1962 and officiated in five World Series (1946, 1950, 1954, 1958, and 1962).

50 Years Ago – November 1972

As reported in the November 24th edition of The Morning Call, twenty members of the Club substituted for the normal volunteers of the Lehigh County Meals on Wheels Program and delivered Thanksgiving meals to sixty shut-ins. This was the second time the club had volunteered for this duty, which became an annual project for the club. Until approximately five years ago, Allentown Kiwanis members, supported by Allen and Central Catholic Key Club members, took over the Thanksgiving Day deliveries to allow the regular volunteers to celebrate the holiday at home.

25 Years Ago – November 1997

From the November newsletter, the following items were highlighted:

- The annual Meals on Wheels project was scheduled for November 27th with support from Allen and Central Catholic Key Clubs.
- Former long-time club member and club president, Jody Millard Wannemacher, was named the 1996-97 Kiwanian of the Year.
- Luncheon speakers for the month included Lynn Blanchard, Director of the MESH Program; Anna Jean Henry, Executive Director, Meals on Wheels; and Kathryn Stephanoff, Director of the Allentown Library.

- ***Enos Martin***

Upcoming Meetings and Activities

SERVICE PROJECT – HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS! Last week in November.

MONTHLY MEETING – Thursday, November 10, 6:00 PM (Social Hour 5-6 PM) at the Shanty on 19th. Guest Speaker: Lin Erickson, CEO, DaVinci Science Center.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – Wednesday, November 30, 5 PM on Zoom.



November Birthdays



- 9- Cindy Ashcraft
- 13 - Ricki Stringfellow
- 14 - Kathryn Best
- 16 - Debra Lamb
- 18 - Leigh Miller
- 19- Tom Harp
- 21 - Terry Kennedy
- 28 - Belinda Gray



- Tom Harp, Editor